

REMARKS

In response to the Office Communication mailed January 28, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

The Office Communication noted that Applicants have suggested an interference pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §41.202(a) in a communication filed October 16, 2006, and requested that Applicants now provide all the information required under 37 C.F.R. §§41.202(a)(1) through (a)(6). Accordingly, this paper provides all of the required information, as set forth in detail below.

Claims 1-70, 73, 80, 93, 94, 126-165, 174-322, and 324 previously were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more related (e.g., continuation) applications to pursue prosecution of any claims cancelled during prosecution of this application. Claims 71-72, 74-79, 81-92, 95-125, 166-173, 323 and 325-341 remain pending in this application.

Of these, only seven claims, namely claims 335-341 (of which 335 and 337 are independent claims), are being designated as corresponding to the proposed count. In an Office Action mailed October 18, 2007, claims 335-341 were indicated as allowed.

Claims 335-341 were first introduced in the present application in Applicants' reply of January 19, 2006. None of these claims has been amended since its introduction.

Applicants address below each of the requirements for suggesting an interference in the order set forth in 37 C.F.R. §41.202(a).

§41.202(a)(1)

Applicants seek an interference with U.S. Patent No. 7,113,196 (hereinafter "the '196 patent"), which issued on September 26, 2006.

§41.202(a)(2)

Applicants believe that all claims of the '196 patent (claims 1-7) interfere with pending claims 335-341 in the present application.

Applicants propose the following count:

Count

the method of claim 337 of the present application

Applicants' presently pending claims 335-341 are identical to respective claims 1-7 of the '196 patent; specifically, independent method claim 335 of the present application is identical to independent method claim 1 of the '196 patent, and independent method claim 337 of the present application is identical to independent method claim 3 of the '196 patent. All of claims 335, 336 and 338-341 are obvious over claim 337 of the present application. Similarly, claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are obvious over claim 3 of the '196 patent.

§41.202(a)(3)

The following claim chart compares the independent claims of the two parties recited in the count. Because the claims are identical, they interfere within the meaning of §41.203(a).

<u>Claim 337 of present application</u>	<u>Claim 3 of U.S. 7,113,196</u>
A method for illuminating a housing of a computing system, the computing system having a screen display, said method comprising:	A method for illuminating a housing of a computing system, the computing system having a screen display, said method comprising:
providing illuminable regions to the housing around and adjacent the screen display;	providing illuminable regions to the housing around and adjacent the screen display;
mapping illuminable regions of the housing to regions of the screen display;	mapping illuminable regions of the housing to regions of the screen display;
sampling regions of the screen display to acquire color indicators; and	sampling regions of the screen display to acquire color indicators; and
colorizing the illuminable regions of the housing in accordance with the acquired color indicators mapped thereto in order to extend the feel of the screen display to the housing, said colorizing including illuminating the illuminable regions with light from one or more light elements located at each of the illuminable regions of the housing.	colorizing the illuminable regions of the housing in accordance with the acquired color indicators mapped thereto in order to extend the feel of the screen display to the housing, said colorizing including illuminating the illuminable regions with light from one or more light elements located at each of the illuminable regions of the housing.

§41.202(a)(4)

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to several provisional applications, including U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/277,911, filed March 22, 2001, entitled “Systems and Methods for Digital Entertainment.” As discussed in further detail below, pending claims 335-341 are entitled to the benefit of the filing date of Serial No. 60/277,911, namely, March 22, 2001.

The ‘196 patent claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to the following two provisional applications:

Serial No. 60/298,364, filed June 15, 2001, entitled “Active Enclosure for Computing Device;” and

Serial No. 60/315,571, filed August 28, 2001, entitled “Computing Device with Dynamic Ornamental Appearance.”

Accordingly, at least one priority date to which at least pending claims 335-341 are entitled, namely, March 22, 2001, predates both of the provisional applications to which the ‘196 patent claims priority. Thus, Applicants will prevail on priority.

§41.202(a)(5)

The following chart of the presently pending claims indicates written description for each new claim in Applicants’ specification. Applicants note that the present application claims the benefit of, and incorporates by reference, several related applications, including U.S. Non-provisional Application Serial No. 09/917,246, filed July 27, 2001, entitled “Systems and Methods for Color Changing Device and Enclosure,” now U.S. Patent No. 6,888,322 (hereinafter “the ‘246 application”). As indicated in the chart below, support for some claim elements may be found in the ‘246 application as well as in the text of the present application.

New Claim	Support in Specification
335. A method of extending the feel of a display screen to a housing that surrounds the display screen, the housing being separated into a plurality of independent illuminable zones, each of the zones having a light element that is disposed inside the housing in the area of the illuminable zone, said method comprising:	page 17, lines 5-6; page 20, lines 5-19; page 32, lines 11-21; page 33, lines 12-13; page 19, lines 14-21; also see '246 application, page 4, lines 24-30
associating regions of the display screen to particular illuminable zones;	page 13, lines 15-23; page 20, lines 15-19; page 14, line 19 through page 15, line 9; page 17, line 5 through page 18, line 5; page 22, lines 9-19
determining color indicators for a plurality of regions on the screen display that are associated with the illuminable zones; and	page 13, lines 15-23; page 14, line 19 through page 15, line 9; page 17, line 5 through page 18, line 5; page 20, lines 15-19; page 22, lines 9-19; page 29, lines 14-20
illuminating the illuminable zones of the housing based on the color indicators of the regions associated therewith, the illumination being provided by light from the light element of the particular illuminable zone, the illumination colorizing the illuminable zone of the housing in conjunction with the color of the associated region of said extending the feel of said display screen.	page 14, lines 2-3; page 18, line 21 through page 19, line 1; page 19, lines 14-21; page 20, lines 15-19; page 29, lines 14-20
336. A method as recited in claim 335, the computing device is a general purpose computer.	page 9, lines 3-7; page 13, lines 2-3; page 33, lines 18-20

New Claim	Support in Specification
337. A method for illuminating a housing of a computing system, the computing system having a screen display, said method comprising:	page 9, lines 3-4; page 13, lines 2-3; page 18, line 21 through page 19, line 1; page 19, lines 14-21; also see '246 application, page 4, lines 24-30
providing illuminable regions to the housing around and adjacent the screen display;	page 20, lines 7-19
mapping illuminable regions of the housing to regions of the screen display;	page 23, line 22 through page 24, line 23
sampling regions of the screen display to acquire color indicators; and	page 13, lines 15-23; page 17, line 5 through page 18, line 5; page 20, lines 15-19; page 22, lines 9-19; page 29, lines 14-20
colorizing the illuminable regions of the housing in accordance with the acquired color indicators mapped thereto in order to extend the feel of the screen display to the housing, said colorizing including illuminating the illuminable regions with light from one or more light elements located at each of the illuminable regions of the housing.	page 14, lines 2-3; page 18, line 21 through page 19, line 1; page 19, lines 14-21; page 20, lines 15-19; page 29, lines 14-20
338. A method as recited in claim 337, wherein the housing of the computing system being illuminated houses at least a microprocessor, memory and input/output ports.	page 13, lines 2-3; page 14, line 19 through page 15, line 9; also see '246 application, page 4, lines 1-11
339. A method as recited in claim 337, wherein the housing of the computing system being illuminated houses at least the screen display.	page 20, lines 6-8; also see '246 application, page 4, lines 1-11 and page 5, lines 1-2

New Claim	Support in Specification
340. A method as recited in claim 337, the computing system is a general purpose computer.	page 9, lines 3-7; page 13, lines 2-3; page 33, lines 18-20; also see '246 application, page 4, lines 1-11 and page 5, lines 1-2
341. A method as recited in claim 337, wherein said method is periodically performed such that the regions of the housing being illuminated are color matched with the regions of the screen display.	page 3, lines 12-13; page 15, lines 5-9; page 15, line 20 through page 16, line 10

§41.202(a)(6)

The following chart of the presently pending claims indicates constructive reduction to practice within the scope of the interfering subject matter as supported by U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/277,911, filed March 22, 2001 (hereinafter "the '911 application"), which incorporates by reference U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/221,579, filed July 28, 2000 (hereinafter "the '579 application"). As indicated in the chart below, support for some claim elements may be found in the '579 application as well as in the text of the '911 application.

MPEP §608.01(p)B states that an application is entitled to rely upon the filing date of an earlier application, even if the earlier application itself incorporates essential material by reference to another document, citing to *Ex parte Maziere*, 27 USPQ2d 1705, 1706-07 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP §608.01(p)B notes that limitations on the material which may be incorporated by reference in U.S. patent applications which are to issue as U.S. patents do not apply to applications relied on only to establish an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. §119 or 35 U.S.C. §120, and that neither of these statutes places any restrictions or limitations as to how the claimed invention must be disclosed in the earlier application to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, any reliance on the '579 application for purposes of indicating constructive reduction to practice as of the filing date of the '911 application is proper.

New Claim	Support in Serial No. 60/277,911
335. A method of extending the feel of a display screen to a housing that surrounds the display screen, the housing being separated into a plurality of independent illuminable zones, each of the zones having a light element that is disposed inside the housing in the area of the illuminable zone, said method comprising:	page 13, lines 13-14; page 16, lines 14 through page 17, line 4; page 27, lines 1-11; page 28, lines 3-4; page 16, lines 1-4; also see '579 application, page 5, lines 2-6
associating regions of the display screen to particular illuminable zones;	page 16, lines 14 through page 17, line 4; page 13, line 13 through page 14, line 6; page 18, lines 8-18
determining color indicators for a plurality of regions on the screen display that are associated with the illuminable zones; and	page 13, line 13 through page 14, line 6; page 17, lines 1-4; page 18, lines 8-18; page 24, lines 16-22
illuminating the illuminable zones of the housing based on the color indicators of the regions associated therewith, the illumination being provided by light from the light element of the particular illuminable zone, the illumination colorizing the illuminable zone of the housing in conjunction with the color of the associated region of said extending the feel of said display screen.	page 11, lines 12-13; page 15, lines 7-10; page 16, lines 1-4; page 17, lines 1-4; page 24, lines 16-22
336. A method as recited in claim 335, the computing device is a general purpose computer.	page 7, lines 3-5; page 11, lines 2-3; page 28, lines 9-10

New Claim	Support in Serial No. 60/277,911
337. A method for illuminating a housing of a computing system, the computing system having a screen display, said method comprising:	page 7, lines 3-4; page 11, lines 2-3; page 15, lines 7-10; page 16, lines 1-4; also see '579 application, page 5, lines 2-6
providing illuminable regions to the housing around and adjacent the screen display;	page 16, lines 14 through page 17, line 4
mapping illuminable regions of the housing to regions of the screen display;	page 19, line 9 through page 20, line 5
sampling regions of the screen display to acquire color indicators; and	page 13, line 13 through page 14, line 13; page 17, lines 1-4; page 18, lines 8-18; page 24, lines 16-22
colorizing the illuminable regions of the housing in accordance with the acquired color indicators mapped thereto in order to extend the feel of the screen display to the housing, said colorizing including illuminating the illuminable regions with light from one or more light elements located at each of the illuminable regions of the housing.	page 11, lines 12-13; page 15, lines 7-10; page 16, lines 1-4; page 17, lines 1-4; page 24, lines 16-22
338. A method as recited in claim 337, wherein the housing of the computing system being illuminated houses at least a microprocessor, memory and input/output ports.	page 11, lines 2-3; also see '579 application, page 4, lines 2-12
339. A method as recited in claim 337, wherein the housing of the computing system being illuminated houses at least the screen display.	page 16, lines 15-16; also see '579 application, page 4, lines 2-12

New Claim	Support in Serial No. 60/277,911
340. A method as recited in claim 337, the computing system is a general purpose computer.	page 7, lines 3-5; page 11, lines 2-3; page 28, lines 9-10
341. A method as recited in claim 337, wherein said method is periodically performed such that the regions of the housing being illuminated are color matched with the regions of the screen display.	page 2, lines 10-12; page 12, lines 6-19

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner and/or Interference Practice Specialist have any questions regarding this paper, they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

No fee is believed to be required in connection with this paper. However, if there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

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